

NEWS RELEASE

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Officials Unveil Renovated Affordable Housing Project

A renovated apartment complex that will house 16 lower-income families was officially unveiled today at a grand opening and open house in Williston. West View Apartments are located at 2416 and 2426 29th St. W.

Deeann Long, Region 1 coordinator for Community Action & Development Program, Inc. (CADP), said the project will help meet the demand for affordable housing in Williston. "West View provides decent, safe and affordable housing to low- and very-low income families," Long said. "One of the units is fully handicap accessible. Fourteen of the units are already occupied and we expect the complex will be full within weeks."

CADP is managing the apartment complex for Affordable Housing Developers Inc. AHDI is the nonprofit organization that acquired the two apartment buildings this year and has been renovating the properties since January.

According to Will Laintz, director of AHDI, more than \$580,000 was spent to acquire and renovate the two-bedroom, 16-unit complex. The majority of the funding came from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development's multi-family housing program. Other funding came from the Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Program administered by the Community Services Division of the North Dakota Department of Commerce.

Clare Carlson, state director for USDA's Rural Development, said, "This is an example of federal, state and local agencies working together to make sure we develop quality, affordable housing for low-income people."

Michael Spletto, program manager for the HOME Program said, "Community development is an important ingredient in the state's economic development efforts. Our

ability to help a community provide affordable housing not only helps the community retain its citizens, but also improves the community's character and its quality of life.”

The renovation of Williston's West View includes new siding on the exterior of both buildings and new floor coverings, appliances and paint on the inside. CADP's weatherization program provided insulation and other energy saving measures so all units are more energy efficient.

USDA Rural Development programs are designed to provide decent, safe and affordable housing to low- and very-low income tenants, and also provides rental assistance to help reduce rents to persons in these categories. The HOME Program is designed to create partnerships among governmental entities and the private sector in order to make affordable housing available to low-income persons.

People interested in renting one of the apartments should contact CADP in Williston to determine if they meet income guidelines. All the units in the project are eligible for rental subsidies that allow a qualified tenant to pay a maximum of 30 percent of their monthly income for rent and utilities. For information call CADP at 701-572-8191.

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